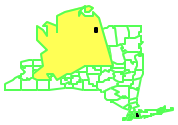
CLAREMONT POLYCHEMICAL

NEW YORK

EPA ID# NYD002044584



EPA REGION 2

CONGRESSIONAL DIST. 03

Nassau County

Old Bethpage

Site Description

The Claremont Polychemical site, situated on an approximately 9.5-acre site, is a former manufacturer of pigments for plastics and inks that operated from 1966 to 1980. During its operation, Claremont Polychemical Corporation (Claremont) disposed of liquid wastes in three leaching basins and deposited solid wastes and treatment sludges in drums or in old, aboveground metal tanks. During a series of inspections in 1979, the Nassau County Department of Health (NCDH) found 2,000 to 3,000 drums containing inks, resins, and organic solvents throughout the site. Some of the drums were uncovered, while others reportedly were leaking. NCDH inspectors noted that an area east of the building was contaminated with organic solvents that resulted from spills and discharges. Claremont sorted and removed the drums from the site in 1980. A subsequent investigation by NCDH revealed most of the drums were gone, but an area of soil (referred to as the "spill area") was visibly contaminated with inks and solvents. As a result, Claremont was directed to install groundwater monitoring wells. When Claremont declared bankruptcy in 1980, ownership of the site and management of cleanup activities shifted to the New York Bankruptcy Court. In early part of 1997, the Court dismissed Claremont's bankruptcy petition; as a result, the ownership of the property has shifted back to Claremont Polychemical Corporation. The closest residences are located approximately ½ mile from the site. Approximately 47,000 people draw drinking water from wells located within 3 miles of the site. The nearest public water supply well is 3,500 feet northwest of the site.

Site Responsibility:

This site is being addressed through Federal actions.

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 10/01/84

Final Date: 06/01/86

Threats and Contaminants

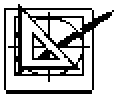
Shallow groundwater is contaminated with organic compounds in excess of federal and/or New York State Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). These organic compounds include: tetrachloroethene (PCE), trans-1,2-dichloroethene, trichloroethene, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, ethylbenzene, acetone, benzene, 1,1-dichloroethane, methylene chloride, xylenes and vinyl chloride. Heavy metals detected in excess of federal and state standards include: arsenic, chromium, and lead. Should the contaminants move into the public drinking water, residents could be exposed to contaminants by drinking affected water or inhaling the volatile compounds present in the water. The nearest public drinking water supply well is tested on a routine basis to ensure compliance with State and federal drinking water standards. Currently, the site is fenced and access is restricted to EPA-authorized personnel.

Cleanup Approach

This site is being addressed in three stages: immediate actions and two long-term remedial phases focusing on the removal and disposal of hazardous materials and on-site soil and groundwater cleanup.

Response Action Status

Immediate Actions: In 1989 and 1991, the EPA removed 30,200 gallons of flammable and hazardous liquids contained in 547 drums, 8 aboveground tanks, 15 underground tanks and overflowing basins. The waste materials were tested for compatibility, consolidated and transported to an off-site treatment, storage and disposal facility. In addition, the fifteen underground storage tanks were excavated and removed.



Soil and Groundwater Contamination: In 1990, the EPA completed an investigation into the nature and extent of soil and groundwater contamination. The remedy selected in a September 1990 Record of Decision (ROD) includes: excavation and treatment of contaminated soil by low heat to enhance the volatilization of the contaminants, and deposition of the treated soil in the excavated areas; extraction and treatment of the groundwater by air stripping and carbon adsorption and then reinjection of the treated water into the ground; and decontamination of the former Process Building by vacuuming and dusting the contaminated surfaces and by removing the asbestos insulation.

The soil excavation/treatment work began in the Fall of 1996 and was completed in March of 1997. Approximately 8,762 tons of contaminated soils were remediated.

The groundwater portion of the remedy is being implemented in two phases. For the first phase, extraction wells were installed at the property boundary to capture the most contaminated groundwater. The construction of this on-site groundwater treatment system began in May 1997 and full-scale operation began in February 2000. The second phase (off-site groundwater remediation) is being addressed under

the terms of a Financial Assistance Agreement between EPA and NYSDEC. An ongoing groundwater remediation program at the Old Bethpage Landfill Site, which is nearby the Claremont Polychemical Site, is capturing significant levels of contaminants from this off-site plume. It is anticipated that remediation of this plume will be addressed through the Financial Assistance Agreement by integrating the remedy for the Claremont off-site plume into the Old Bethpage treatment system. This approach could save Superfund resources while optimizing the use of the Old Bethpage treatment system.

The building decontamination work began in the Summer of 1997 and was substantially completed in December 1997. Approximately 32 tons of mixed debris, 2,600 linear ft. of asbestos materials and 86 tons of asbestos tank coatings were removed from the building. However, during the decontamination effort, subsequent sampling of a hole discovered in the floor slab led to the detection of a new source of contaminated soil beneath the building. The soil beneath the former building was sampled and found to be contaminated with VOCs (PCE, trichloroethene, toluene and xylene) and cadmium. In August 2002, EPA initiated a pilot study to address the VOCs in the soil underneath the Process Building using a soil vapor extraction (SVE) system.

In April 2003, EPA issued an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) to document modifications to the 1990 ROD. This ESD included actions to treat the VOCs in the soil under the former Process Building by operating an SVE system and maintaining the integrity of the Process Building's floor over time to prevent direct human exposure to cadmium-contaminated soil. The latter action was to be accomplished by establishing institutional controls to ensure that the Process Building's concrete floor remains undisturbed, and future uses of the Property are limited to commercial/light industrial uses. In addition, the ESD also required the removal of approximately 30,000 yd^3 of industrial/commercial demolition and construction debris located on the northern portion of the property and the decommissioning of five concrete-lined pits, which served as former wastewater treatment basins.

Cleanup Progress

In September 2003, the removal of construction debris and decommission of wastewater treatment basins were completed. Approximately 300 tires were segregated from the debris and disposed off-site; 20,654 cubic yards of soil were processed and screened, stockpiled on-site during the debris excavation, and re-graded onto the excavated area following the debris removal; 390 tons of miscellaneous debris were removed and transported to a solid waste disposal facility; 7,000 tons of concrete and 170 tons of scrap metal were transported to a recycling facility; and 454 tons of cadmium hazardous soil and 128 tons of cadmium hazardous debris were disposed of at a permitted hazardous waste facility. In addition, two drums of sludge were removed from the wastewater treatment basins and transported off-site for disposal.

The SVE system is to remove VOCs under the former Process Building is operating at an extraction rate of approximately 500 - 600 CFM. The most recent monitoring data indicate that approximately 1,200 lbs of VOCs were removed by the SVE system. The system is expected to continue to operate for one year to reach soil cleanup objectives.

The immediate removal and disposal of 30,200 gallons of hazardous liquid wastes contained in 547 drums conducted in 1991; the construction of a security fence; the removal of 32 tons of mixed debris, 2,600 linear ft. of asbestos materials and 86 tons of asbestos tank coatings from the building; the excavation and off-site disposal of 15 underground storage tanks; the treatment of 8,762 tons of contaminated soils; the

decontamination of the building's interior structure; and the continuous extraction and treatment of the on-site groundwater plume have greatly reduced the potential for exposure to hazardous materials at the Claremont Polychemical site. A Preliminary Close Out Report was finalized in September 2003. The Site is currently in the long-term response action phase and a Five-Year Review is scheduled for April 2008.